

September 2, 2011

I, Lelia Vaughan, a resident, business owner, property owner, partner, member, post office box renter, and customer of the United States Postal Service Jonesville, Texas Post Office 75659, herein submit questions and concerns relative to the handling of discontinuance in small rural communities.

Why does it make financial sense to discontinue a small rural post office which is documented to have shown a significant increase in revenue over the past few years?

How can it possibly be better to inconvenience the majority of community residents/ small rural post office customers for the sake of only a few residents who requested rural route delivery from another community's post office?

How could it be that a larger community post office with rural delivery be approved to offer rural delivery service to residents who live less than a mile from an existing small rural post office? Does USPS approve of larger post offices actively seeking rural route customers in another community/post office area?

Are District Discontinuance Coordinators and Area Managers supposed to notify all residents in an unincorporated rural community of proposals to discontinue the rural post office? Are notification letters to be addressed to each resident in that community? Are all residents in a community supposed to be sent a questionnaire? Does USPS define and restrict "RESIDENT" to mean only those individuals who have rented post office boxes? Would discontinuance not effect citizens and residents throughout the unincorporated area?

Who in the United States Postal Service is responsible for accumulating, assessing, determining, and recording information relative to a small rural post office and the small rural post office's community including descriptions of community such as businesses (large, small, and home-based), non-profit organizations and associations, foundations, crime reports (burglary, theft, vandalism), population statistics, etc.?

Who in the USPS is responsible for evaluating the information recorded as official record? Is that person responsible for making absolutely certain that facts have been recorded accurately? Does that same person have responsibility for making recommendations of discontinuance for small rural post offices?

If the official record for a small rural post office is incorrect and the post office has been recommended for discontinuance, has that small rural community been given fair and truthful consideration? Does USPS not owe the citizens and postal patrons across this country DUE PROCESS?

If an Area Manager and District Manager make a firm decision to eliminate a small rural community's ZIP CODE prior to full disclosure of a community's need, community's description, resident facts, postal patronage, unique community characteristics, number of businesses, crime in the area, etc., on what basis was such a decision made?

If declining work load is the reason for discontinuance in a small rural post office, why would reduction in hours of operation and elimination of Saturday service not be viable and simple solutions which would not impact the community?

Is it not true that there has been a general decline in mail across this country which has impacted every post office? If it is true, then why are small rural post offices being discontinued on that basis alone?

If there is a simple solution for any small rural post office to remain open by adjusting hours of operation, accepting/seeking reduction in building lease amounts, increasing box rental fees, and eliminating Saturday delivery, why would discontinuance be better than continuance? Please substantiate why discontinuance would be better for residents, customers, post office box holders, businesses, organizations, foundations, etc.

Is there any reasonable logic for discontinuing a small rural post office which has shown a significant increase in revenue over the past three years, has received an offer for a fifty percent reduction in building lease fees, has experienced a surge of new post office box rentals and stamp sales, and has major business patrons and smaller business patrons dedicated to the rural community and the post office?

Does it make LEGAL sense to discontinue a small rural post office for which the community served was not thoroughly and accurately defined and reported by the USPS officials who held such responsibility and authority?

If a small rural post office has shown increases in revenue over the last few years, those post offices should not have been recommended for discontinuance.

Respectfully submitted,  
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